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LB 327

difficult if it's going to be...has a good business plan and should go, but that's where, apparently, a lot of this money goes. I've come to recognize the need for that, but there's still that nagging thought in the back of my mind why we have to go this route when it shouldn't be that difficult to get \$10,000.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I rise in support of this microenterprise bill. I look at this as an investment, investment into the future of Nebraska and the firms that have the training and have the technology that these groups can furnish them have a much lower rate of failure. Also this is the growth rate of Nebraska. We can go out and try to get the large companies like Micron and some of the others, but still our growth here in Nebraska traditionally has been from the smaller firms, from those who start out. So I look at this as an investment, an investment into Nebraska's future. I would ask the body to support this particular measure. I think that we're going to get returns back in the way of taxes, both from employees, from businesses, from industry clear across the nation or across Nebraska, and so I would certainly urge the body to support this measure. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Chris Peterson.

SENATOR C. PETERSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I also rise in support of LB 327. I think that it will be very beneficial, especially as people are coming off the welfare rolls, and I think in reaction to Senator Wehrbein's concerns, I certainly share those. I think we all are very much aware of that...that moving...moving needle as it goes higher and higher on the money. But the other thing, too, we have to realize is looking at from the other end, \$10,000 to many people is as insurmountable as 100 million, and something like this can be of benefit to people that have really no other options before them even though they have the best ideas and best intentions in the world, and so I strongly support this and hope the body will too.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hilgert, there are no further lights